



WASHINGTON STATE
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

THE CLARION

DATES AND DEADLINES

December 4, 2020: MTNA Northwest Division Competition

January 10, 2021: Dues Deadline for New Members participating in MAP

January 15, 2021: Submission Deadline for Feb/Mar *Clarion*

January 30-31, 2021: Education Board and Board of Directors Meetings

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Karen Hollenback, NCTM
WSMTA President

Hope Springs Eternal

I ended the 2019 December/January *Clarion* President's Corner with the words *"Oh the places we'll go!"* What a difference a year makes.

We had no idea what 2020 would bring us: a world wide pandemic; protests both peaceful and violent; cancellations of school, graduations, sports, weddings, parties, concerts, vacations, church services, celebrations big and small; masks; social distancing; toilet paper shortages; lines and empty shelves at grocery stores; restaurant take-out, delivery, curbside pickup; Zoom, virtual meetings galore... I could go on and on.

My pandemic diary lists the places I DIDN'T go this year: Chicago, IL; Indiana Dunes National Park; Pullman, WA; Plain, WA; and Cincinnati, OH; as well as the changes that were made, and are being made, in family traditions, many that were and are years old. And, sadly, it also lists the people who became sick, and one who succumbed to COVID-19.

It also expresses my frustrations with life in general during this pandemic: missing family, friends and colleagues; the exhaustion of teaching online and the inability to see students in person; and constantly trying to be mindful of social distancing and hygiene with extra planning in order to avoid crowds. There is no denying that life has changed.

And yet, there are still smiles on the faces of friends and of family—both young and old.

And yet, there are helping hands reaching out: lending a hand to complete a task; sharing knowledge when a "how do I do this" question arises; lightening a discouraged outlook with a gentle smile, encouraging word, or a laugh, etc.

And yet, "hope springs eternal."

Jody Graves, at her closing presentation of the 2018 Leadership Seminar, shared a visual and musical reminder of all that we are and can continue to be, and the hope we as musicians and teachers bring to our world. View her presentation here: <https://youtu.be/l4PGAsrs9CM>.

As we move through these short days and long nights of December and January in the Pacific Northwest, with the challenges those days and nights might bring, thank you to each of you who have been working tirelessly to bring the mission of WSM TA to life, and to bring hope through music to those around you.

WSMTA is over 900 members strong and YOU are the reason that "hope springs eternal." For another visual tribute and thank you from the cast of *Wicked* to all frontline workers (that means YOU), click here: <https://youtu.be/IHI3tkrZSts>.

I wish each of you peace, joy and continuing hope through the holiday season.

And, in 2021: "Oh the places we'll go!"

Karen Hollenback, NCTM

Karen Hollenback, NCTM, WSM TA President



The *Clarion* is the official bulletin of the Washington State Music Teachers Association and is published six times during the school year: Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, and June/July. The *Clarion* includes membership news announcements as well as pertinent news of the Music Teachers National Association.

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STATE CONFERENCE UPDATE

We're Going Virtual!



WASHINGTON STATE
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

2021 VIRTUAL STATE CONFERENCE

JUNE 17-19, 2021

www.wsmta.org

WSMTA is excited to present our first Virtual State Conference in June 2021! Conference Guest Artists are Dr. Jeffrey Savage, NCTM, and Dr. Karen Savage, NCTM.

The conference will feature more than twenty presenters, covering everything from pedagogy to best business practices. There will be opportunities for connecting with old colleagues and meeting new ones. Please stay tuned as more details unfold!

Kira Theine, NCTM and Laura Curtis, 2021 Conference Co-Chairs



Dr. Jeffrey Savage and Dr. Karen Savage
2021 Conference Guest Artists



WASHINGTON STATE
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sarah K. Black-Marion
Wenatchee Chapter

Amy Elizabeth Boers
Puyallup Valley Chapter

Rosalie Folger-Vent
Spokane Chapter

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Spokane Chapter

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Snohomish Chapter

Drew W. Bair
Snohomish Chapter

Welcome to WSMTA!



Follow WSMTA on Instagram!
@WASStateMTA

www.instagram.com/wastatempa

2020 MTNA COMPETITIONS

Washington State Results for the MTNA Performance & Composition Competitions

Junior Performance Piano

Winner

Daniel Beal, student of Barbara Miller

Alternate

David Gatien, student of Nancy Jang

Honorable Mention

Nicholas Grote, student of Ni Liu and Peter Mack

Senior Performance Piano

Winner

Adrian King, student of Peter Mack and Dainius Vaicekonis

Alternate

Edward Zhang, student of Duane Hulbert

Honorable Mentions

Dora Chen, student of Sasha Starceвич

Julian Frank, student of John Pickett

Senior Piano Duet

Winner

Sarah Girges and Avah Girges, students of Barbara Miller

Alternate

Jonathan Zheng and Zhirui Li, students of Peter Mack

Young Artist Performance Piano

Winner

Ivan Tarasenkovich, student of Tanya Stambuk

Alternate

Evan Minsk, student of Peter Mack

Honorable Mention

Cameron Barton, student of Fabio Menchetti

Junior Performance String

Winner

Tokuji Miyasaka, *violin*, student of Simon James

Alternate

Charlie Lee, *cello*, student of Sounglim Lee

Honorable Mentions

Annie Song, *violin*, student of Simon James

Claire Doh, *cello*, student of Julie Cho

Senior Performance String

Winner

Yvette Kraft, *violin*, student of Simon James

Alternate

Carson Ling-Efird, *cello*, student of Nathan Chan

Honorable Mentions

Jean Yu, *cello*, student of Leslie Marckx

William Johnson, *cello*, student of Leslie Marckx

Young Artist Performance String

Winner

Julia Marielle Tan, *violin*, student of Maria Sampen

Alternate

Luis Perez, *violin*, student of Carrie Michel



Pre-COVID: 2018 MTNA Performance Competitions at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA. Photo by David Hollenback.

Junior Performance Woodwind

Winner

Larry Zhao, *clarinet*, student of Joanne Corr

Alternate

Max Zhang, *flute*, student of Sarah Basingthwaite

Senior Performance Woodwind

Winner

Johnathan Lee, *saxophone*, student of Fred Winkler

Alternate

Anthony Xie, *flute*, student of Bonnie Blanchard

Honorable Mention

Bryce Wepler, *clarinet*, student of Ashley Cook

Young Artist Performance Woodwind

Representative

Jordan Marbach, *saxophone*, student of Fred Winkler

Senior Performance Brass

Representative

Cassidy Stanhope, *tuba*, student of Ryan Schultz

Young Artist Performance Brass

Winner

Joshua Thomsom, *euphonium*, student of Christopher Dickey

Alternate

Turner Gray, *tuba*, student of Christopher Dickey

Honorable Mention

Evan Minsk, *horn*, student of Mark Robbins

Elementary Composition

Winner

Eli Antony, student of Sharon Van Valin

Honorable Mention

Zachary Pederson, student of Kristina Lee

Junior Composition

Winner

Rachael Kim, student of Sharon Van Valin

Honorable Mention

David Gatien, student of Nancy Jang

Senior Composition

Winner

Kevin Nam, student of Sharon Van Valin

Honorable Mention

Aaron Zhang, student of Sharon Van Valin

Young Artist Composition

Representative

Michael Powers, student of Martin Kennedy



Pre-COVID: 2019 MTNA Performance Competitions at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. Photo by David Hollenback.

2020 MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITION IN REVIEW



Colleen Hunter, NCTM
WSMTA Vice President,
MTNA Performance
Competitions Chair for
WSMTA

Washington State's first online MTNA Performance Competition was successfully implemented and completed this year! Congratulations to each performer, each teacher, and to each family represented! We are proud of all of you!

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the WSMTA Board of Directors made the decision to move this event online. Video submissions were due to the WSMTA

website by November 2 with winners announced November 15. **Carrie Kahler**, WSMTA Administrative Coordinator, received and coordinated these submissions which were then distributed to the judges by the area coordinators, **Karen Scholten**, Junior division, **Mary Kaye Owen**, Senior division, and **Laura Curtis**, Young Artist division.

This online team were efficient, remarkably flexible, and wonderful communicators with students and teachers. In addition, **Linda Stump**, MTNA Competitions Chair, and other national office staff provided ready and wise counsel as we moved through uncharted territory. Encouraging and willing support staff included **Karen Hollenback**, WSMTA President, **Kathy Mortensen**, WSMTA President-elect, **Krista Seely**, Education Board Chair, **Samantha Yeung**, WSMTA Communications Coordinator, and **Cherie Felts**, OAC Chair.

Students and teachers are to be commended for their tenacity and dedication to see the performances through to the moment of "hit submit." Judges, too, went through some grueling hours of watching, writing, commenting, and decision-making. They were amazed at Washington's high level of artistry and competition

and commented on the pleasure of viewing the performances. **The program booklet with the list of repertoire will soon be available on the state website.**

There were 98 entries in 11 divisions:

- Piano: Junior, Senior, Senior Duet, Young Artist;
- String (violin, viola, cello)—Junior, Senior, Young Artist (violin only);
- Woodwind: Junior (flute, clarinet), Senior (flute, saxophone, clarinet), Young Artist (saxophone—state representative)
- Brass: Senior (tuba—state representative), Young Artist (euphonium, tuba, French horn)

The state winners will now prepare videos for the Northwest Division Competition round with Division winners and Representatives performing in the online competition at the virtual MTNA National Conference in March 2021.

Judges for the 2020 Competition are listed below. Their bios can be found on the WSMTA website. We appreciate their diligence, expertise, and willingness to work under new circumstances.

Piano Division:

- **Dr. Christopher Hahn**, University of Montana
- **Dr. Jessica Pacheco-Hjelmstad**, Laramie County Community College
- **Dr. Roger McVey**, University of Idaho



Dr. Christopher Hahn



Dr. Jessica Pacheco-Hjelmstad



Dr. Roger McVey

String Division:

- **Dr. Miranda Wilson**, cello, University of Idaho
- **Dr. Philip Baldwin**, violin, Whitworth University
- **Dr. Jason Moody**, violin, Gonzaga University



Dr. Miranda
Wilson



Dr. Philip
Baldwin



Dr. Jason Moody

Woodwind Division:

- **Dr. Peter Hamlin**, clarinet, Gonzaga University
- **Dr. Stephan Friel**, saxophone, Eastern Washington University
- **Dr. Sophia Tegart**, flute, Washington State University



Dr. Peter Hamlin



Dr. Stephan Friel



Dr. Sophia
Tegart

Brass Division:

- **Dr. David McLemore**, tuba, Central Washington University



Dr. David McLemore

Composition Division:

- **Dr. Martin Kennedy**, Central Washington University
- **Dr. Justin Ralls**, Linfield College
- **Dr. Gregory Youtz**, Pacific Lutheran University



Dr. Martin
Kennedy



Dr. Justin Ralls



Dr. Gregory
Youtz

*Colleen Hunter, NCTM, MTNA Performance
Competition Chair for WSMTA*

*Nathan Campbell, MTNA Composition Competition
Chair for WSMTA*

OUTSTANDING ARTIST COMPETITION (OAC) RESULTS

Junior Division

First Place

Nolan Tu, student of Renato Fabbro

Second Place

Avah Girges, student of Barbara Miller and Ivona Kaminska Bowlby

Third Place

Hanjia Guo, student of Donna Bender

Honorable Mentions (Unranked)

Leah Im, student of Angelo Rondello
Isaac Jiang Goldstein, student of Peter Mack
Chiara Rogers, student of Ni Liu
Ashley Zong, student of Alexandra Tsirkel
Eric Yuze Ma, student of Ivona Kaminska Bowlby
Rebecca Sun, student of Ivona Kaminska Bowlby
Owen Zhang, student of Nicole Kim

Senior Division

First Place

Jeslyn Z. Cai, student of Peter Mack and Karlyn Brett

Second Place

Sunny Wang, student of Renato Fabbro

Third Place

Yechong Eric Shan, student of Ivona Kaminska Bowlby

Honorable Mentions (Unranked)

Steven Wu, student of Renato Fabbro
Scott Fisher Jr., student of Nicole Kim
Travis Lee, student of Ivona Kaminska Bowlby
Mia Chen, student of Nino Merabishvili
Jesse Morris, student Willard Schultz
Annika Jonson, student of Kay Zavislak



Pre-COVID: 2019 OAC at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. *Photo by David Hollenback.*

2020 OAC IN REVIEW

Anytime of the year is an appropriate time to show gratitude and express thanks to friends and colleagues in our lives. As the holiday season comes upon us, I am thinking more about being thankful for my family and friends!

The Outstanding Artist Competition was a virtual event this year. There were 26 entrants for the Junior Division and 22 entrants for the Senior Division, representing 23 teachers.

I would like to thank:

Krista Seely, Chair of the WSM TA Education Board, for her encouragement;

Carrie Kahler, WSM TA Administrative Coordinator, for her immense help with registrations and many hours spent organizing performance submissions;

Jani Peterson, NCTM, for formatting the program and doing extra research with titles, opus numbers, and all the clarifications needed to make the printed program as accurate as possible;

Karen Hollenback, NCTM, our WSM TA President, for all of her support and encouragement, her help with signing participant certificates and awards, and her communication as we worked through all the unusual circumstances;

Colleen Hunter, NCTM and WSM TA VP, for all she worked on with the realm of communication and using her excellent gift of organization for all of us.

Finally, a huge thank you is extended to our 2020



Dr. Karen Hsiao Savage, NCTM



William McKay, NCTM



Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, NCTM

OAC Judges:

- **Dr. Karen Hsiao Savage, NCTM**, University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory
- **Mr. Bill McKay, NCTM**, Columbia Basin College
- **Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, NCTM**, University of Puget Sound

It was a pleasure working with them!

Cherie Felts, OAC Chair



Pre-COVID: 2019 OAC at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. *Photo by David Hollenback.*



CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

"The Gift"—2021 Chapter of the Year Award Application Deadline May 1, 2021

Even though this Christmas season may be a bit different, we naturally may be thinking about gifts and gift-giving. As if we need a reminder, our mailboxes already have been flooded with catalogs full of gift-giving ideas. "All I Want for Christmas is *(fill in the blank!)*"

Gifts come in different sizes and shapes, large and small, simple and elaborate; some wrapped in bright colored paper and some not wrapped at all. Some are costly and others little or no cost. Some gifts are sentimental, some are fun and some can be creative. They can be deserved and not deserved—earned or not earned.

As a church musician, one of my favorite beautiful piano solos to share during the Christmas season is Jim Brickman's *"The Gift."* Brickman, along with

Tom Douglas, penned the piece 23 years ago in 1997. Brickman, a native of Cleveland, began playing piano at the age of five and studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music where there is a scholarship established in his honor. He is one of the best selling solo piano artists of our time, a Grammy-nominated songwriter and host of *"Your Weekend with Jim Brickman."* You may want to tune in to find his virtual concert *"Comfort & Joy at Home"* during this Christmas season.

Speaking of gifts, WSMTA will give a \$500 "gift" to your chapter if selected as the 2021 Chapter of the Year! Make a New Year's Resolution NOW to start thinking about applying for the award. Information can be found at www.wsmta.org > For Teachers > Chapter of the Year.

Harriet West, Chapter of the Year Chair
dhwest6@gcpower.net

LOIS WHITNER STUDENT STUDY GRANTS

A Time of Gratitude

COVID-19 has brought a lot of change to our lives, but one thing that is constant is music and its power to transform, inspire, comfort, soothe, excite... I could go on and on. With Thanksgiving almost here I am filled with much gratitude: for our profession with its joy of igniting the love of music in young people, for MTNA/WSMTA and our local chapters with the opportunities for growth that these organizations are continuing to provide us, and for you, our amazing colleagues, whose innovative ideas and creative spirits reach out to us as we face the challenges brought about by the coronavirus.

I am also grateful for your continuing generosity that has enabled WSMTA to establish our Student Study Grant program. As you may remember, the funding for this program was launched in January, 2001, with our Double Your Dollars campaign that raised over \$8,000.

That following June, 2001, our program was solidified when WSMTA received a bequest from the estate of Lois and Chet Whitner. Over time, other memorial gifts have been added to our grant endowment funds.

Now is an especially good time to contribute as so many are struggling with the financial losses caused by the corona virus. Donations made out to WSMTA Student Study Grant can be sent directly to our treasurer:

Mary Grant, WSMTA Treasurer
12525 Madison Ave NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

WSMTA is a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are fully tax-deductible. Further, our grant monies are invested conservatively and the yearly earnings are used to fund grants that help students defray the costs of music lessons, theory or composition classes, or tuition for music camps.

In the spring of this year we were able to award grants to six students totaling \$5,600. Over the past eighteen years, 139 Student Study grants have been awarded by WSMTA totaling \$80,835. Students of bass, cello, piano, violin, voice, and composition from all over the state have benefitted from this program. Many of our grant recipients have continued their music studies in college.



Next spring will be our nineteenth year of awarding study grants. Do you have a serious student who is committed to music study but is struggling to continue lessons because of financial concerns? Encourage that student to apply for a WSMTA Whitner Student Study Grant!

February's Clarion will contain an article that lists the specific requirements for applicants. Further information can be downloaded from the application itself which is posted on our website. Please note the application deadline is **May 1, 2021**.

Connie Hungate, WSCTM, Student Study Grants Chair

INCOMING HALL OF FAME CHAIR

Introducing Chris VanBuskirk, Incoming Hall of Fame Chair

We are excited to welcome Chris VanBuskirk, incoming Hall of Fame Chair. Thank you, Chris, for accepting this position! Chris will be working closely with current HOF Chair Mary Ellen Cavelti Beardsley as she transitions into this position.

—Karen Hollenback, NCTM, WSMTA President

Learn more about Chris here:



Chris VanBuskirk
Hall of Fame Co-Chair

I have played the piano, sang, and studied music since I was four years old. Loving music as I do, I decided to teach music, both publicly and privately, sharing this wonderful gift with anyone who wants to learn. Besides teaching piano, I also teach choral music to children and adults, having had choirs and ensembles from 6 to 100+ voices. I have taught choir classes for private

schools, homeschool co-ops and public schools for over 35 years. I have taught in Montana, Washington and Alaska, having had award winning A Capella Choirs over the years.

I also have a very successful private music studio, having taught for the past 46+ years. Besides Music Festivals, various events and recitals available for my students through PVC, WSMTA and MTNA, they also have the opportunity to perform in a Piano Trio, with a professional cellist and violinist in the fall through Orchestral Recital Series of Tacoma (ORS). In the spring, my students are also able to perform in a formal setting, on stage, with a Chamber String or Full Orchestra. They have really enjoyed this and have done well, looking forward to these events every year. Besides teaching piano in my music studio, I also play the piano myself, for worship at

church, for weddings and private events, accompanying other vocal and/or instrumental soloists, various choirs, and enjoy sharing my love for music in the community. I really enjoy students of all ages, so with my love and strong passion for music, teaching both choral and piano, I find it is a perfect combination and a great fit for me. I have been an active member of MTNA, WSMTA and Puyallup Valley Chapter since 2001. Being a part of this group of musicians has enhanced my life in more ways than I can fully express. I have also been a member of National Federation of Music Clubs and National Guild of Piano Teachers for many years.

I am very honored to have been asked by Mary Ellen Cavelti and look forward to my time as the Hall of Fame Chair, providing a supporting hand to WSMTA and enjoying the opportunity to meet others who love music as much as I do. Thank all of you for your support.

Chris VanBuskirk, Hall of Fame Co-Chair



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www.facebook.com/WASStateMTA

2021 WSM TA HALL OF FAME CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nomination Deadline January 5, 2021

It is December 1st and we have just celebrated Thanksgiving with its message of gratitude, family traditions, friendships, and hope for peace in our nation and the world. In many ways it seems as though our lights have dimmed as teachers trying as best we can to teach remotely, as parents yearning to be with our loving families, and as friends needing to see our dear colleagues who give us so much joy and support.

In this season of gratitude I am reminded of the words of Albert Schweitzer: *"At times our own light goes out but is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."*

Keep the flame alive as you go through this winter and as you think of dedicated teachers who have kept your chapters alive and thriving, innovative leaders at the local or state level who share their

enthusiasm and expertise, adjudicators who transformed your teaching, and clinicians who inspired you to strive for the next level. There are worthy people in every chapter for nomination into the WSM TA Hall of Fame. The WSM TA website has all the information you need for getting started. Three letters of recommendation are requested and can be from your chapter president, a colleague, and even a parent, present or former student.

The deadline for entries is January 5, 2021 and can be sent to me at molly60music@comcast.net. Let me know if you are planning to start working on your packet but have questions. I am very happy to help you in every way possible!

With warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season,

Mary Ellen Cavelti Beardsley, NCTM
Chris Van Buskirk
Hall of Fame Co-Chairs



Pre-COVID at the 2019 WSM TA State Conference, Hall of Fame Chair Mary Ellen Cavelti Beardsley presents the Hall of Fame Inductees.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Carrie Kahler

*WSMTA Administrative
Coordinator*

In the last issue we took a look at a conference program from the roots of WSMTA. Today, we're going to zoom forward in time to the Young Composer's Project. Launched in 1955, the Young Composer's Project has been giving students an opportunity to receive professional feedback on their compositions for 65 years.

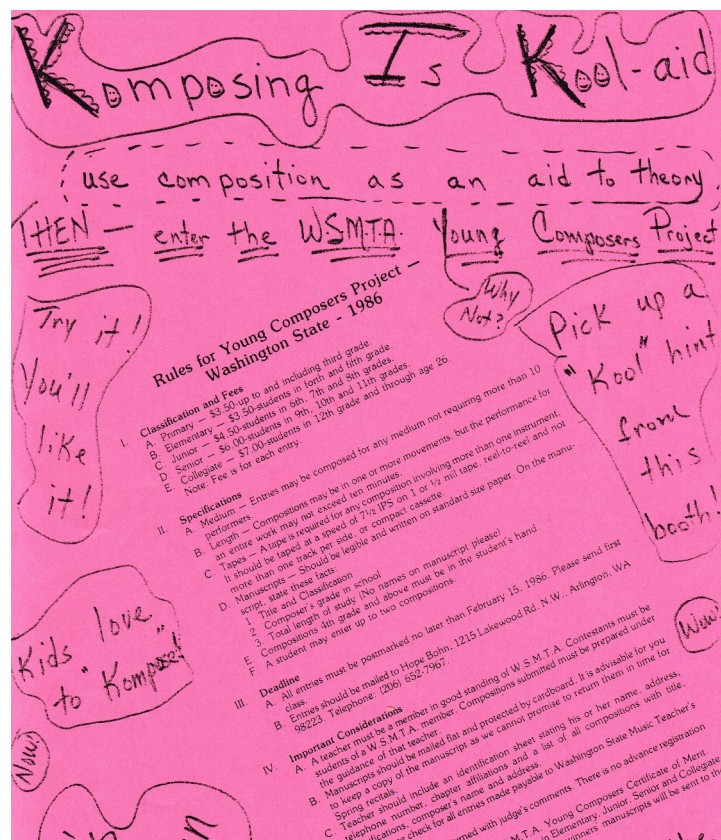
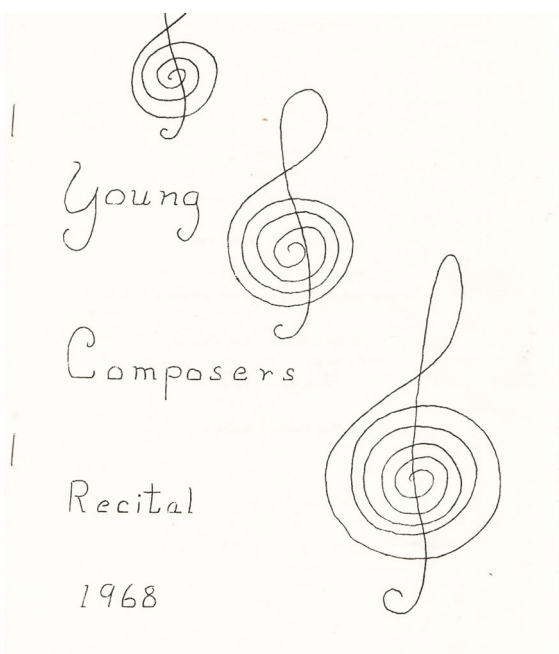
In 1956 the guidelines for the Young Composer's Project included four different classes in which students were encouraged to compose chants (single or double) written in any texture; a song or dance minimum 24 measures, a vocal composition with the text Biblical, original, or by a contemporary poet; or one or more movements of Sonata for instrument, chamber group, small or large orchestra with a playing time of 6 minutes. Stephen Balogh, Chair of the Young Composer's Project at the time, wrote:

"I am sure that Leopold has shown little Wolfgang through many "bass lines" before the young man felt independent enough to create his own. And how many Mozarts do you think we hide in our

state? Let's ask every pupil of ours to create so that we may not be denied the precious experience of seeing the probable little Mozarts emerge from their hiding places. Now may I ask you all to roll up your sleeves please. Put your best ingenuity and persuasion power over your pupils and send in so many entries that the hours of judging will really become arduous."

The first image is the cover of the Young Composers Recital at the 1968 State Conference. Among the many teachers and students listed inside, WSMTA member Mrs. Carolyn Malnes is still teaching! The second image is from a handout attendees of the 1986 State Conference received with tips about how to integrate composing into regular lessons. The rules don't mention anything about chants, but do specify that compositions for more than one instrument should include a tape at a speed of 7 1/2 IPS on 1 or 1/2 mil tape, reel-to-reel.

Whether reel-to-reel, small orchestra, MIDI-file, or MP3, WSMTA will continue to help teachers uncover hidden Mozarts through the Young Composer's Project!—*Carrie Kahler, Administrative Coordinator*



FROM YOUR VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL CHAIR

Introducing V&I Committee Members Susan Speicher (Strings) and Kristine Richman (Flute)



Jane Melin, NCTM
Vocal & Instrumental Chair

I'm pleased to announce that **Susan Speicher** (strings) and **Kristine Richman** (flute) are joining me to brainstorm ideas for our V&I teachers and help spread the word about the great things WSMTA offers to this community!

Our first idea is to host a Zoom meeting for Strings teachers to talk about the Music Literacy Program tests that are available for Sightreading, Theory and Technique just for strings students! As the volunteer who made the original modifications of the MLP tests for piano to adapt them for strings students, I would be happy to host a presentation, and I will tentatively schedule it for **Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 am**. Interested teachers: please email me for the Zoom link to the meeting! Send your name, email and teaching instrument(s) to jane@melinmusicstudio.com by December 10. We still need a Voice teacher on the committee—contact me at the email above if you are interested!

Video Ensemble Demo Project

In the October Clarion, I teased a video ensemble demo project that the strings and winds teachers in the Kitsap Chapter were working on. Our video is now live! Go here for the link:
www.kitsapmusicteachers.org/virtual-performances/

Piano Accompaniment Videos for Vocal and Instrumental Repertoire: Who Knew?!

In the quest to help my more advanced students practice their repertoire with a piano accompaniment—in the comfort of their own homes—I discovered an active community of



Susan Speicher



Kristine Richman

generous pianists posting accompaniments on YouTube. These are carefully curated productions, many of them complete with the soloist's sheet music right on the screen for playalong. Some even provide a moving highlight or a click during the piano rests to help the soloist stay in sync with the piano part. If you're late to the party of discovering this resource like I am, you are going to be so excited to send your students these links!

The first channel I found is also the most recent. **"Piano Accompaniment"** has been posting videos since November 2019. Their "About" information says "Hi! We are Piano Accompaniment, a project that was born during the global lockdown to provide musicians with free high quality piano accompaniments. We haven't stopped publishing videos since then and it is thanks to your support that we keep improving our work. So feel free to play publicly with our accompaniments and contact us for any request!"

For their short time active, the channel has an impressive number of pieces for many instruments already. There's a remarkable selection for Double bass (31 in solo tuning + 15 in orchestral tuning), followed by violin (46), cello (34), viola (31), oboe (27), bassoon (13), trombone (12), classical voice (10), clarinet (9), trumpet (9), and guitar (3). For those who like piano with their piano, there are orchestra reductions for the Brahms #1 and Grieg (1st mvt.) piano concertos (tuned to A=442, is this a

problem?). Strangely, there are no flute pieces on this channel. For that, check out:

"With Piano": More helpful playlists by instrument! Violin and viola (including Suzuki repertoire), cello, **flute**, double bass, oboe, clarinet. Gives metronome markings in each video's description. Displays solo sheet music but without highlighted scrolling. No click lead-in, but silent countdown numbers appear. Active from 2011 to the present.

"Pianoescort": mostly for violin and cello pieces. This channel had the most sophisticated solo-part presentation: fully scrolling with each measure highlighted as played, and lead-in clicks. The accompanying website (Spanish language) is pianoaccompaniment.blogspot.com, and is searchable by composer or title. Active 2013-2017.

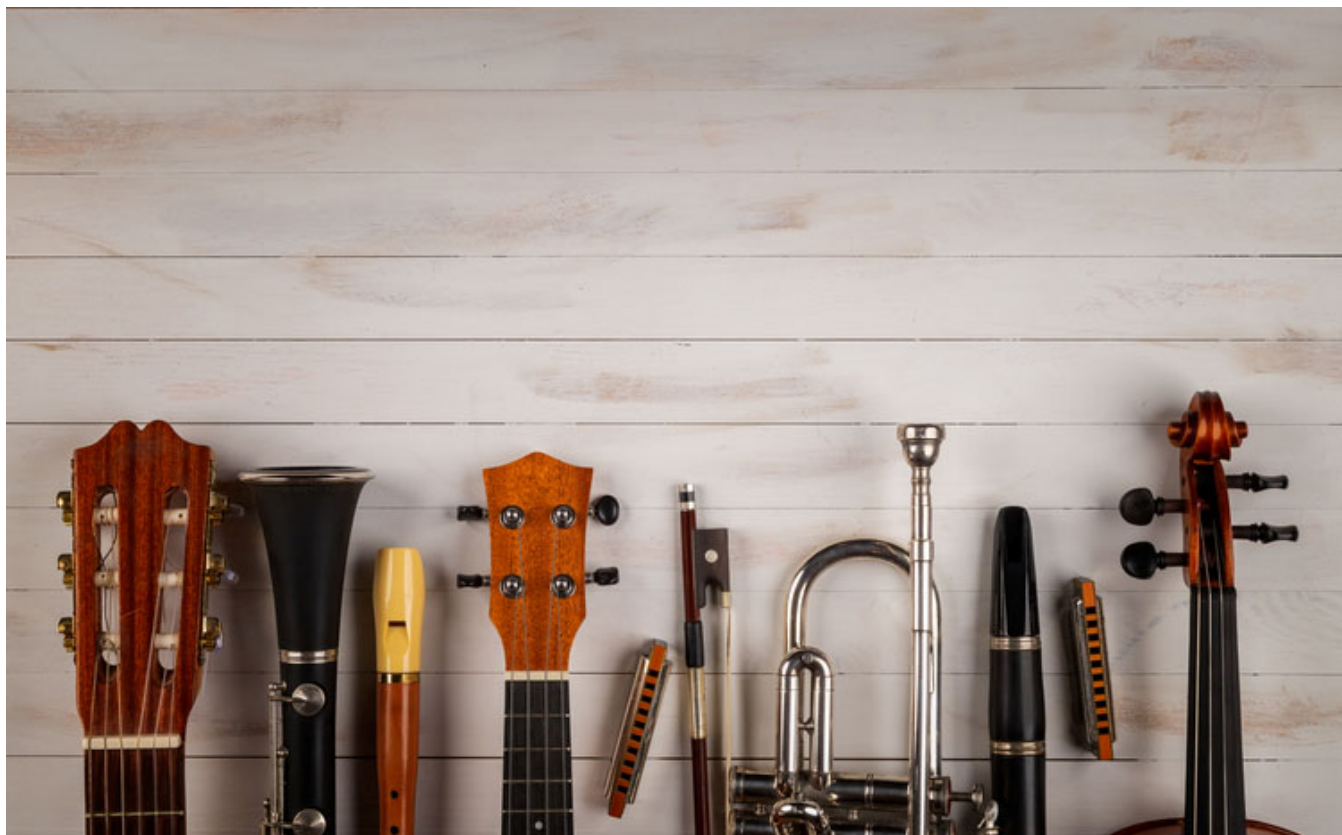
"Violin Piano Accompaniments": "Dozens of your favorite composers. Slower practice versions available. Click beats when piano is silent." Active from 2015, but only the more recent videos have synchronized soloist sheet music.

Two channels exclusively for voice students: **"The Accompanist"** specializes in musical theatre tunes from many Broadway shows. And **"Free Pianist"** is the counterpart for classical arias.

There is a slow-downer feature built right into YouTube playback settings. Videos can be played back at any fractional speed using the "Custom" option. The selected playback speed persists from one video to next, so be sure to re-set to "Normal" speed when changing videos.

Piano teachers: could creating an accompaniment video be a good project for your advanced piano students? Start with a piece with limited tempo changes and listen to a metronome through headphones to keep the tempo steady. In the absence of orchestral rehearsals, I have been enjoying jumping back into advanced repertoire practice. These accompaniment videos make it so much more fun!

Jane Melin, V&I Chair



MUSIC LITERACY PROGRAM HIGH HONORS

Clark County Chapter

TEACHER: STUDENT (LEVEL)

Cinda Redman: Samuel Liu (1), Daniel Liu (3), Ariel Hsu (4), Emily Livingston (4), Emily Liu (4), Tina Lai (5), Midon Davis (9 & 10)

Brenda Lance: Paolo Folino (1&2), Ian Wentworth (2), Zach Gillespie (2),

Elizabeth Morris: Caleb Neibert (2), Jake Graham (2), James Hesse (2), Marin Wisbeck (2), Marley Weaver (3), Alexa Peterson (4)

Kitsap County Chapter

TEACHER: STUDENT (LEVEL)

Kathryn Arnold: Jack Johnson (4), Kaia McGee (2)

Debra Florian: Ben Castillejo (2), Blake Ross (9), Clair Ross (6), Evie Manges (2), Clair Ross (6), Evie Manges (2), Julie Castillejo (4), Kail Taylor (4), Luca Castillejo (5), Madison Hennings (9), Myrra Pennington (3), Tori Sanford (1), Wyatt Soetaert (2)

Hannah Meehan: Adri Thompson (2), Kasia Dewitt (2), Sara Adams (2)

Mary Grant: Mike Stone (2), Penelope Hunt (2)

Victoria Hall: Evelyn Hunt (2), Ryan Adkisson (1)

Megan Hennings: Bella Fugere (3), Bronwyn Seaman (1), Chace Slover (1), Daisy Cleverdon (3), Elli Seaman (4), Gemma Wartman (1), Gracie Allen (3), Gracie Cleverdon (1), Jessalyn Northey (3), Jonathan Cornette (1), Reston Twilley (1), Sebastian Mulier (2), Simone Fitzpatrick (2)

(Kitsap County Chapter Continued)

Dianne Johnston: Collin Zacher (2), Daisy Gemmer (5), Emma Anunson (2), Emmanuel Moes (4), Jacob Kushner (3), Thomas Brown (9)

Melanie Kurtzbein: Lillian Ngo (2)

Diane Layton: Annabelle Waldman (1), Archie Ramsey (1), Garrett Holm (2), Grace Nelson (3), Naomi King (2), Roger Shi (4)

Laetitia Lehman-Pearsall: Alex Munson (2), August Maron Chao (1), Leland Hilgers (1), Lucas Munson (2), Madison Gambie (1), Quentin Faust (4)

Jane Melin: Corinne Sy (3), Madelyn Alford (4), Sophia Brown (3)

Laura Meredith: Peter Meredith (2)

Patricia Ray: Cash Barnes (2)

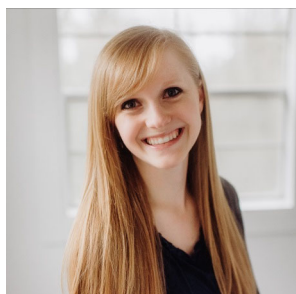
Joann Richardson: May-Lyn Zhang (5), Laurel Rogers (2)

Anita Rose: Alyssa Hawkins (5), Elizabeth Bretthauer (4), Gabriella Ybarra (4), Gina Cartwright (5)

Melanie Stroud: Alyson McClung (6), Devereaux DeFransisci (1), Elizabeth Hinson (3), Elliana Campbell (4), Isaac Beers (6), Jackson Alford (2), Johannah Campbell (2), Robin Gitch (4), Silas Harris (1), Taylor Palmer (4)



CERTIFICATION CORNER



Rose Freeman, NCTM
Certification Chair

What does your morning routine look like these days?

I am grateful for our WSMTA Leadership team who so thoughtfully crafted an online conference in October that was centered around supporting each member to lead their own studios and chapters with professionalism and care.

I value “planting seeds” each morning in my own life, especially given the circumstances of this year. Returning to my breath through yoga, meditation, or simply a walk reminds me of the gift of life and grounds me to show up in the world with intentional compassion, dedication, and wholehearted action each morning.

One of those ways I get to interact with the world around me is hearing from teachers who are pursuing their own National Certification! If you teach piano, voice, violin, or organ, MTNA offers a program for you to complete 5 teacher profile projects and receive National Certification in your instrument. I value these 5 projects as they give teachers an opportunity to reflect on who they teach, what they teach, and why they teach. You can access the projects overview at www.certification.mtna.org.

Since October, there are four new teachers who have applied for Certification in Washington state! Washington State Music Teachers Association offers a \$100 grant that covers half of the application cost. If you are interested in hearing more about the program (individually or as a chapter) please contact me at rosefreemanmusic@gmail.com.

Rose Freeman, NCTM, Certification Chair
425-248-9288 · rosefreemanmusic@gmail.com

STUDIO TECHNOLOGY



Ryan Worswick
*Studio Technology
Chair*

Hello everyone! I hope this finds you safe and sound, having made as much of the holidays as you were able. Rather than the typical article format, and in the spirit of airing out the old, ringing in the new, I thought it might be novel to share some of the fruits of fall's labors as we embark on the next leg of our journey. In particular, I've managed to extract a few gems (in video form!) from a

November presentation I gave for the Seattle Chapter on the current state of duets and recitals online.

If you're still without any **solution to duets**, or if you're struggling to convince parents (or yourself!) about **the value of an external mic** these videos are for you.

Find them here, along with some reflections summarizing what we've been discussing in an ongoing seminar on the **tech/nique of online music lessons**. I hope these help to ease your journey, and I wish you a full studio with engaged students in the meantime. Happy New Year!

Click the links below or copy/paste them in your browser to view the videos on YouTube:

- Bringing Duets into Online Lessons
<https://rebrand.ly/duetsonline>
- Improving Your Sound for Online Lessons: The Magic of USB Mics
<https://rebrand.ly/bettersound>
- Tech/Nique of Online Piano Lessons Series:
<https://rebrand.ly/tech/nique>

Ryan Worswick, Studio Technology Chair



Improving Your Sound for Online Lessons: The Magic of USB Mics. View at <https://rebrand.ly/bettersound>.



Bringing Duets into Online Lessons. View at <https://rebrand.ly/duetsonline>

PEDAL POINTS

The Value of Organ Study—For Pianists



Joann Richardson,
NCTM
Organ Chair

"If you pass a church and hear the organ being played, go inside and listen. If you are fortunate enough to be allowed to sit on the organist's bench, then put your little fingers on the keys and be astonished at the omnipotence of Music."
—Robert Schumann

The power, beauty, and variety of tone color that the organ produces is unlike that of any other instrument. Mozart once stated, "In my eyes and ears, the organ will forever be the king of instruments." I firmly believe that all piano students can benefit from organ study. I've watched students who were lukewarm about learning to play the piano (and in danger of quitting lessons) become excited about music study once they experienced the power, tonal possibilities, technical complexities, and great repertoire of the organ. Likewise, I've had excellent piano students become even better pianists because of organ study.

Here's another great quote by Schumann: "Miss no opportunity to practice on the organ. No other instrument takes such an immediate revenge on sloppiness in composition and playing as the organ."

Those of us who are players of both the piano and the organ can attest to this truism. On the piano, the sound begins to decay as soon as the key is struck. Use of the damper pedal further obscures clarity. Organists learn precise control of articulation—the organ will do exactly what the finger tells it to do because the sound continues for as long as the key is depressed. And, yes, Schumann was right—sloppy articulation shows up immediately when playing the organ. My piano students immediately discover this when I have them hop onto the organ bench to play their music!



Pre-COVID: Joann Richardson and Martha Natiuk lead a series of organ sessions at the 2018 OMTA/WSMTA Joint Conference.

A fabulous reason for pianists to spend some time studying the organ is summed up in one word—Bach. For most pianists, Bach is the earliest music that they play. Therefore, when they come to Bach, their frame of reference is the legato technique that suits the bulk of the music that pianists play—music from Romantic and Classical eras. Organists, however, study music that Bach himself knew well—"early music" by Couperin, Sweelinck, Frescobaldi, Buxtehude, and a host of others. If you really want to know Bach, then spend some time with these composers—especially Buxtehude. In addition, organists learn "early" fingering and articulation. Studying "early" music and technique opens up a

wonderfully-articulated sound-world of dance rhythms and musical gesture.

Of course, there are practical reasons to encourage pianists to learn to play the organ. I frequently encounter pianists who have been called into service as organists in their churches. Their lives would have been so much easier (and they would sound so much better) if they had been exposed to organ technique at some point during their piano study. Other pianists have found that they can supplement their income with church playing jobs. The ability to play the organ often makes the difference between being offered a position and losing out to a different candidate. The gift of organ study would allow our students to have the skills for church positions. It would also allow current organists to have a Sunday off (or even to retire)!

The most important reason to introduce the organ to students is this— if we don't do it, it will die. For

the great repertoire of the organ to survive, we need to have organ students. If the organ dies away, then so does all the great organ music written over the centuries. No Bach. No César Franck. No Widor and his famous Toccata. Nobody left to play the great hymns of faith. Gone forever. Ponder that for a moment.

In my last article, I shared with you that I am working on a proposal to make the Music Artistry Program (MAP) available to organ students. The realities of the pandemic have not only put this project on temporary hold, but many of us are also unable to teach organ lessons right now due to logistical concerns. So— this is the time to plan ahead. Please be thinking of ways to introduce the organ to piano students. Then, please send me an email message telling me your ideas. In future articles, I will share our combined wisdom so that when the world does finally get back to normal we can revitalize organ study in Washington State.

*Joann Richardson, NCTM, WSM TA Organ Chair
organistjoann@gmail.com*



Joann demonstrates on the organ at the 2020 WSM TA Leadership Seminar, which was held via Zoom in September.

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM

Turn, Turn, Turn (Musings on the Past Year)



RoseMarie Tamburri
IMTF Chair

With a mix of relief, concern and hope, we are about to turn the page to a new year and a new decade. As we look back on 2020, lyrics from *Turn! Turn! Turn!** come to mind: "To everything there is a season; and a time to every purpose, under Heaven."

The events of 2020, particularly all the changes driven by the Covid-19 pandemic, reflect these prophetic words:

"A time to build up, a time to break down."

"A time to dance, a time to mourn."

"A time to plant, a time to reap."

"A time to laugh, a time to weep."

As individuals and as teachers, we have re-engineered our studios to work in a virtual learning environment. In-person lessons have taken on a new format following safety protocols issued by public-health agencies. Learning new technology skills has become a cornerstone for a successful studio. It's been a time of stress and anxiety as we navigate challenges in our personal and professional lives.

It's also been a time of creativity, empathy, collaboration, discovery and connection. On any

given day of teaching, I have experienced the joy of seeing a student accomplish a simple new task (learning how to number measures in their score) to recording a stellar performance of a Beethoven Sonata they plan to play in our virtual holiday recital! (Happy 250th, Ludwig!) I have gotten to know their pets, applauded their Zoom skills, said "hi" to their siblings, oohed and aahed over their Halloween costumes.

Weekly Zoom sessions with colleagues have been an outlet for sharing challenges and resources, rants and raves, tears and laughter. While there is physical distance between us and almost everyone in our lives, the virtual connections we have built are strong and very real.

This is a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. It's a time to teach and a time to learn. I wish you good health, good fortune and more laughs than tears in the coming year.

Until next time,

RoseMarie Tamburri, IMTF Chair

**Pete Seeger wrote and recorded Turn! Turn! Turn! in the late 1950s. The lyrics—except for the title, which is repeated throughout the song, and the final two lines—consist of the first eight verses of the third chapter of the biblical Book of Ecclesiastes.*

